

II. CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-peroxide neutralizing gamma-sterilisable nutrient medium comprising casein soya peptone agar with between 2 and 10% by weight of sodium thioglycolate, between 5 and 20% by weight of sodium thiosulfate and between 10 and 30% by weight of sodium disulfite in each case with respect to the agar.

2. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising between 0.1 and 0.25% of sodium pyruvate with respect to the agar.

3. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising at least one of bromocresol purple and bromocresol violet as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

4. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 3 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

5. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising bromothymol blue as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

6. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set

forth in claim 5 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

7. (Currently Amended) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a buffer where between 20 and 50% of the total amount of buffer is morpholinopropane sulfonic acid and between 50 and 80% of the total amount of buffer is phosphate buffer ~~with respect to the total amount of buffer.~~

8. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 wherein microbial content test agar is used as the agar.

9. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of betaine, glycine, cystine, proline and asparagine.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting microorganisms in hydrogen peroxide-bearing air or on a hydrogen peroxide-bearing surface, said method comprising contacting said air or surface with a nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1, and detecting [[a]] growth of microorganisms in said medium.

13-14. Cancelled

15. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-peroxide neutralizing nutrient medium sterilized by gamma radiation comprising casein soya peptone agar, between 2 and 10% by weight of sodium thioglycolate, between 5 and 20% by weight of sodium thiosulfate and between 10 and 30% by weight of sodium disulfite in each case with respect to the agar.

16. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising between 0.1 and 0.25% of sodium pyruvate with respect to the agar.

17. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising at least one of bromocresol purple and bromocresol violet as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

18. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 17 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

19. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising bromothymol blue as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

20. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 19 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

21. (Currently Amended) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 further comprising a buffer where between 20 and 50% of the total amount of buffer is morpholinopropane sulfonic acid and between 50 and 80% of the total amount of buffer is phosphate buffer ~~with respect to the total amount of buffer.~~

22. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein microbial content test agar is used as the agar.

23. (Previously Presented) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of betaine, glycine, cystine, proline and asparagine.

24. (New) for detecting microorganisms in hydrogen peroxide-bearing air, said method comprising contacting said air with a nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1, and detecting a growth of microorganisms in said medium.

25. (New) A method for detecting microorganisms on a hydrogen peroxide-bearing surface comprising contacting said surface with a nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1, and detecting a growth of microorganisms in said medium.

26. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising between 0.05 and 0.25% of sodium pyruvate with respect to the agar.

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27. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising between 0.05 and 0.25% of sodium pyruvate with respect to the agar.